

# Chocangaca language

The **Chocha Ngacha language** or *Chochangachakha* (Dzongkha: རྩོད་ཅ་ང་ཅ་ཁ་ Wylie: *Khyod ca nga ca kha* "'You' and 'I' language";<sup>[3]</sup> also called "Kursmad-kha", "Maphekha", "rTsamangpa'i kha", and "Tsaḡkaglingpa'i kha") or **Tsamang** is a Southern Tibetan language spoken by about 20,000 people in the Kurichu Valley of Lhuntse and Mongar Districts in eastern Bhutan.<sup>[1][4]</sup>

## Chocha Ngacha and Dzongkha

Chocha Ngacha is a "sister language" to Dzongkha.

Curiously, the most closely related language to Dzongkha in the kingdom is spoken in the east of the country along the Kurichu and represents an ancient 'Ngalong *Einwanderung* in the east. [...] Cho-cha-nga-cha-kha is more conservative in its pronunciation of many words than Dzongkha [...] Most verbal suffixes are cognate to their Dzongkha counterparts, but Cho-cha-nga-cha-kha has adopted the Bumthang infinitival ending *-mala*[.]<sup>[3]</sup>

Under pressure to assimilate into the mainstream Dzongkha-speaking Ngalop culture, this proximity has resulted in significant loss of its particularly distinctive Kurichu linguistic substrate.<sup>[1][5]</sup>

Nicholas Tournadre writes:

Among the eighteen Tibeto-Burman languages (henceforth TB) found in Bhutan, seven belong to the Tibetic group ... which was earlier called “Central Bodish” (see Tournadre, 2014). These languages include Dzongkha རྩོད་ཅ་ཁ་, Chocha Ngacha རྩོད་ཅ་ང་ཅ་ཁ་, Lakha ལ་ཁ་, and Merak-Saktengkha མེ་རག་སཀ་ཅ་ཁ་, Layakha ལ་ཡ་ཁ་, Durkha འོ་ར་ཁ་ and Trashigang Kham བཏཱ་ཤིག་ཁ་ རམས་ཉིད་. Lakha, Merak-Saktengkha, Layakha and Durkha are remnants of yak-herding pastoralist communities, while Dzongkha and Chocha-ngachakha were traditionally cultivator communities. These seven languages are all derived from a form of Old Tibetan (hence OT) and are closely related to Classical Tibetan (hence CT) or CHOS SKAD (ཆོས་སྐད་), as it is often referred to in Dzongkha. This proximity to CT makes it easy to transcribe most words using the Classical orthography. Despite their close genetic relationship, however, these languages do not allow for good mutual intelligibility.<sup>[6]</sup>

Chocha Ngacha	
Tsamang	
Region	Bhutan
Native speakers	(20,000 cited 1993) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tibeto-Kanauri ?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bodish<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tibetic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dzongkha–Lhokä<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Chocha Ngacha</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Writing system	Tibetan alphabet
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	cgk
Glottolog	choc1275 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/oid/id/choc1275">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/oid/id/choc1275</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## See also

- Dzongkha
- Languages of Bhutan

- Language shift

## References

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3. Driem, George van (1998). *Dzongkha = rdoñ-kha*. Leiden: Research School, CNWS. p. 13. ISBN 978-9057890024.
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6. Tournadre, Nicholas. "Outline of Chocha-ngachakha: An undocumented language of Bhutan related to Dzongkha" (<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/76g8736c>). *Himalayan Linguistics*. **14** (2): 49–50.

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